



The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

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How to Join

* Come to a club meeting;

* or send in an application by mail (form on www.NADXC.org)

* or call Tom Duncan at (256)705-2147

From the President

The beginning of the new year is the time to start strategizing about all we would like to accomplish in the next 12 months. Of course we need a bunch of time to put the DX banquet together, and we really do need to start NOW. We need to find a speaker, as well as a location. It took five months to find a speaker last year. And as convenient as the Spring Hill hotel was, its management of the food to the guests may not be repairable. Additionally, the Spring Hill Hotel had little capacity for growth of our event. All this will take some work.

At a meeting last year I heard a member say "Once a member, always a member" of the club. I thought that was a very good point. Of course our constitution doesn't say that: If a member is delinquent on dues, a formal notice of termination must be issued within 60 days. In an officers/directors meeting recently, we came up with a new strategy. I have tasked Tom Duncan, KG4CUY, to explain the plan to the membership, both here and at the next few meetings. I think this approach makes a lot of sense. We'll vote on the matter in due time.

We're at the bottom of the solar cycle right now, and I can feel it. Five years ago, major DXpeditions were in full swing at this time of year. There are still DXpeditions in progress, but they are 1 –

3 man efforts, and create less than 1,000 QSOs. I miss the two-week long pileups on all nine bands, and wonder how many solar cycles are still left in my body. But wait, an event occurred last week that leaves me hope. I'm not enough of a physicist to understand it, but Dr Rob Suggs, NN4NT, is. A brief chat with him left me with visions of sugar plums dancing in my head. He'll do the presentation on Tuesday. You need to hear it.

If you are a QEX subscriber, you probably salivated over the numerous articles on Vector Network Analyzers in the recent issue. One of those articles was written by our Dr John Stensby, N5DF, regarding a more accurate representation of coax loss. The mathematics becomes exciting when the average ham can use it to do work easily. As it works out, there is a new product available, called the "NANO VNA," which costs in the \$40 range, and comes with open source software. John recently got a NANO VNA and will work on moving his equations into it – so we all can easily use his breakthrough. John will present his work in an upcoming month, and I'll bring one of these puppies to the next meeting.

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A Harbinger of the Next Solar Cycle

By Dr. Rob Suggs, NN4NT

A tiny sunspot was recently observed which caused quite a stir among the solar cycle wizards. It appears to be from the next sunspot cycle, giving us hope for improved propagation in the not too distant future. How do we know that was a spot from the new cycle and not a straggler from the old one? Rob will show you the evidence. Be prepared for some interesting physics content. Get to Newk's no later than 6:00 for dinner, 6:30 for the meeting, and Rob's program by 7:30.



December Meeting Minutes

By Chris Reed, AI4U

The Christmas meeting of the North Alabama DX Club was called to order by President Bob DePierre, K8KI at Teranova's Italian restaurant. Bob welcomed everyone in attendance.

DXer of the Year award was presented to Steve Werner, AG4W for his contributions to DX in 2019. Steve delivered several programs and was on the activation team for D4C. He will be on the Swains DXpedition in March 2020.

Bob reviewed DX worked and wish everyone a Merry Christmas! A motion was made and seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Reed, AI4U

Treasurer's Report

NADXC Secretary/Treasurer

Beginning Balance	\$8,697.91
Paypal Transfer for website fee	-59.40
Balance as of December 31	8,638.51

NADXC Officers and Directors

President	Bob De Pierre, K8KI
Vice President	Steve Molo, KI4KWR
Secretary/	Chris Reed, AI4U
Treasurer	
At-large	Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI
Directors	Tom Duncan, KG4CUY
(Ex-Officio)	Steve Werner, AG4W

From the President

(Cont'd from p. 1)

Call for programs: It's worth attending our meetings just to hear the monthly presentation. Our membership is sufficiently talented that we can present the most enlightening shows you can find anywhere on earth. I don't know of anyone who attends our meetings that doesn't fit this bill. I mean YOU. Presentations take a lot of thought and a lot of research, but are nowhere near impossible. I have a lot of ideas for presentation subjects, and so do you. We need you to stand up and volunteer to do a show. Plan on me nudging you to take the step.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, January 14, at Newk's Eatery on University Drive. Dinner at 5:30 and the program will be at 6:30. We'll have another current DX contest, of course. So study up on those call signs.

73, Bob K8KI

Proposals for Constitution and By-laws Changes

NADXC Board of Directors

At its January 7th, 2020 meeting the NADXC board discussed changing the membership classes detailed in the constitution and by-laws from Regular and Honorary to Regular, Emeritus, and Inactive.

The term honorary in this context can carry connotations of "unearned", as in *honorary degree*, or "not otherwise eligible for membership", as would be the case if honorary membership in the club were conferred on a non-ham. We propose this class be eliminated, and a new Emeritus class be created to honor members with an outstanding history in the club.

It is further proposed that an Inactive class be created, into which members delinquent in their dues would transition. It has long been the tradition of the club that once a ham has been

elected into membership, should that member cease to be active for a period but then resume active participation in the club, the member is given the same standing as all other active members without the need to be again voted into membership, provided the current year's dues are paid. The inactive membership class formally recognizes this state of membership.

Further details are given in the proposed changes to the constitution and by-laws which follow.

Because changes to the constitution currently require notification by mail one month prior to the next regular meeting at which a vote would be held on the proposed changes, and as both the constitution and by-laws contain wording regarding membership classes which need to be changed to incorpo-

rate these proposals, and since we desire to move away from the rather expensive use of first-class mail to the entire membership, we propose the following mechanism for changing the constitution and by-laws:

1. The function of the LongPath as the official newsletter is covered in the by-laws. The constitution and bylaws do not specify how by-laws are changed. We therefore first propose to change the by-laws to indicate that the LongPath is used to notify members of changes to the constitution and by-laws at least one month prior to voting on the change. This LongPath serves as that notification. We wish to vote on this proposal at the Tuesday, February 11th meeting.

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Proposals for Constitution and By-laws Changes

(cont'd from p. 2)

2. At the February meeting, the membership will vote on whether to make these changes to the by-laws. For the sake of argument, let's assume that vote passes.
3. In the March LongPath we will publish the intent to call to a vote in April changes to the constitution and by-laws to adjust the membership classes as previously described.
4. At the April meeting, the membership will vote on whether to make the changes to membership classes to the by-laws and constitution.

The specific changes anticipated are as follows:

Constitution

Article I, Membership, Section 1 will be amended to read:

"Membership shall be open to all persons meeting membership requirements detailed in the by-laws, in three classes: Regular, Emeritus, and Inactive."

Article I, Membership, Section 3 will be amended to read:

"A Regular member may resign by verbal or written notice to the club Secretary/Treasurer at any time. A member who resigns will be removed from Inactive status as well."

Article I, Membership, Section 5 will be amended to read:

"Membership for Regular members shall revert to Inactive Status in the event of non-payment of dues. Regular membership privileges shall be reinstated immediately upon receipt of the current year's dues by the Secretary/Treasurer. Regular members who revert to Inactive Status can remain in that status indefinitely, and their DXCC totals will always remain."

Article I, Membership, Section 6 will be amended to read:

"Members in any class may be removed for cause by a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of Regular members in attendance at a regular meeting. Cause for removal shall first be presented to the Board of Directors in writing and, upon a majority finding of sufficient grounds by the Board, shall be presented to the membership for a vote."

Article VI, Amendments, Section 1 will be amended to read:

"The Constitution may be amended by a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the Regular members in attendance at the amending meeting. Notice of the proposed amendment shall be published in the LongPath at least thirty days prior to the amending meeting, and notification of the availability of the LongPath on the NADXC web site shall be sent by email to all Regular members at that time."

Article VI, Amendments, Section 2 will be amended to read:

"Proposals to amend the By-laws must be presented in a regular meeting. A motion must be made at a regular meeting following announcement of proposed changes in the LongPath in order for the proposal to be called to a vote, when a three-fourths (3/4) majori-

ty vote of Regular members present is required for passage."

By-laws

The section entitled "The "Long Path" will be amended to read:

"The *LongPath* is the official newsletter of the North Alabama DX Club, funded by the club membership dues. The current copy of the *LongPath* shall be made available to each NADXC member as an electronic image on the NADXC website. Single hard copies of the LongPath shall be mailed to members electing to submit a mailing fee. Archived copies of the LongPath shall be maintained on the NADXC web site as publicly accessible electronic images.

"The LongPath may be used to fulfill constitutional requirements of membership notification for minutes of regular meetings, notices of board meetings, meeting date notification, publication of proposed budgets, proposed changes to the by-laws, and proposed changes to the constitution. Availability of the most recent edition of the LongPath will be announced to regular members via email."

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The constitution as it now stands may be found on www.nadxc.org. These proposed changes will be discussed at the January meeting, followed by a vote on allowing by-laws and constitution changes following notification in the LongPath.

The LongPath Staff

Publisher/Editor:

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

Departments:

Chuck Lewis, N4NM, DX Contests

Chris Reed, AI4U, Minutes

Bob De Pierre, K8KI, From the President